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The Population of Senegal
/La Population du Senegal/

By Louis Verriere

Dakar: 1963
Ou en Est, Ou Va la Population du Senegal
/Where the Population of Senegal Is Going/.
Institut de Science Economique Appliquée.
pp. 1-5

Translated from the French by Grace W. Moore

Human Relations Area Files
1963

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125 During the years 1960 and 1961, a demographic investigation by sampling was undertaken over the whole territory, the first one in the history of Senegal. (Administrative counts, city censuses, and an investigation in the central valley of the river /Senegal River/ had been made previously, but never a demographic inquiry covering the whole territory.)

[369] The country has been divided into two large parts: the urban
[162] zone, composed of the whole region of Cape Verde and the cities of Thiès, Saint-Louis, Ziguinchor, Diourbel, and Louga; and the rural zone, which includes the rest of the territory. The sampling fraction was 1/60 in the rural zone and 1/20 in the urban zone. Subsequently a sampling to the twentieth was obtained by dividing into two a certain number of maps of the rural zone.

It will be seen merely from the method utilized that it renders illusory the study of small groups /groupes à effectif réduit/. It should be acknowledged from the first that the numbers below 500 (that is, 25 in the sample) are not significant.

II - The Structures:

III - The geographic distribution:

114 The operations in the field begun in the month of April 1960 were terminated in the month of August 1961 (April-June '60 for the rural zone, July '60 to August '61 /2/ for the urban
162 zone). It should be acknowledged that on the whole the numbers indicated below correspond to the situation on the date of 1 July 1960. (Table 1 on following page)

This table shows, on the one hand, the low average density and, on the other hand, its great variability.

[563] The non-African population is made up essentially of French and Lebano-Syrians. It is heavily concentrated in the urban zone and particularly in Cape Verde; 74% of the non-Africans of Senegal
161 are actually in residence there. Moreover, this concentration has
648 become accentuated in recent years for several reasons: the departure of the Senegalese and Mauritanian governments from Saint-Louis; the closing of a number of agencies in the interior following the change in the commercial circuits.

/2 cont./

Table 1 - Over-all Results - Resident Population

Region	Africans	Non-Africans	Total	Area (km^2)	Density per km^2
Cape Verde	397,940	45,640	443,580	550	807
Casamance	528,900	960	529,860	28,350	19
Diourbel	500,980	2,180	503,160	33,547	15
River	342,620	2,780	345,400	44,127	8
Senegal-Oriental	151,080	--	151,080	59,602	2.5
Sine-Saloum	721,040	6,060	727,100	23,945	30
Thiès	405,580	4,080	409,660	6,601	62
Senegal	3,048,140	61,700	3,109,840	196,172	16

Wolof MS30
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change in the commercial circuits.

S 162 /3/ It should not be without interest to give an idea of the peopling of the various regions by ethnic groups. (Table 2 on following pages)

W [167] It is shown that the Ouoloff /Wolof/ constitute more than a third of the total population. This group is abundantly represented in most of the regions, with the exception of Casamance and Senegal-Oriental. It is known that their arrival has determined the growth of the population of Dakar. It is not impossible that persons belonging to other ethnic groups but speaking Ouoloff have been given as Ouoloff.

SR [167] The Sérère /Serer/ are second in rank from a numerical standpoint. They are relatively grouped in Sine-Saloum and in the region ot Thiès.

T [162] /4/ The Toucouleur /Tukolor/, the majority of whom are in the river region, are scattered throughout the territory; they are, however, less numerous in the region of Diourbel.

W [162] One can also note that the Casamance groups scarcely ever wander away from their region of origin except to come to Dakar, and that the Lébou are largely concentrated in Cape Verde.

S [563] Concerning the non-Africans, whose concentration at Dakar has already been mentioned, one will note the presence of a Lebano-Syrian group in the region of Kaolack and a French group in Saint-Louis and Thiès.

S [369] The population of Senegal is still essentially rural, but the urbanization movement, which is noted in all of the regions by reason of the diversification of economic activity and especially the industrial development, is particularly marked there. This factor will greatly modify the geographical distribution of the population during the coming years.

The following table gives the population of the cities which constitute the urban zone. (Table 3 follows Table 2.)

/5/ In sum, the urban population is close to 705,000 inhabitants and represents 23% of the whole. Dakar alone has 12% of the population of Senegal, which is not abnormal. But

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Tukolor MS07
Diola FA14
Fulani MS11

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Table 2 - Total Population - Principal Ethnic Groups
Numbers in thousands

Ethnic Group	Cape Verde	Casamance	Diourbel	Senegal-River	Senegal-Orient	Sine-Saloum	Thiès	Senegal
Ouoloff	204	14	367	86	3	253	176	1.103
Sérère.								
Niominka	26	1	73	1	-	316	178	595
Toucouleur	50	56	4	229	22	47	14	422
Peulh.								
Foulah.								
Laobé	25	22	39	13	56	61	14	230
Diola.								
Baïnouk	8	203	0	0	-	4	1	216
Other Casamanceans (Manjacque. Mancagne. Balante)	6	93	0	0	-	1	1	101
Bambara. Mandingue. Socè.								
Malinké	15	117	1	4	34	22	5	198

(cont.)

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Table 2 Cont.

Ethnic Group	Cape Verde	Casamance	Diourbel	River	Senegal-Orient	Sine-Saloum	Thiès	Senegal
Sarakolé	6	17	1	2	32	5	2	65
Moors	8	1	16	6	0	8	9	48
Lébou	37	-	0	-	0	3	2	42
Other Groups of Black Africa	12	5	0	1	5	3	3	29
Europeans	30	1	0	2	-	1	4	38
Lebano-Syrians	10	-	1	-	-	4	0	15
Eurafricans (Cape-Verdeans)	6	0	0	1	-	0	-	7
Misc.	1	-	0	0	-	0	0	1
Total	444	530	503	345	151	727	410	3,110

/3 cont./

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Table 3 - Population of the Cities of the Urban Zone (1)

City	Africans	Non-Africans	Total
Dakar	336,580	38,120	374,700
Kaolack	68,160	1,400	69,560
Thiès	66,940	2,200	69,140
Rufisque-Bargny	48,280	1,380	49,660
Saint-Louis	47,700	1,140	48,840
Ziguinchor	29,520	340	29,840
Diourbel	27,820	740	28,560
Louga	16,120	160	16,280

1. The total population of these cities does not correspond exactly to the population of the urban zone given below, because all of the region of Cape Verde, including the cantons of Sangalkam and Sébikotane, has been included in the urban zone.

/5 cont./ it is necessary to take note of the fact that Dakar has been in existence scarcely more than 75 years. Its rate of growth, remarkably stable since 1890, stays at between 6% and 7% per year. At this rate, Dakar will have 1,275,000 inhabitants in 20 years and will contain a quarter of the inhabitants of Senegal.

[161]

The rural population is about 2,390,000 inhabitants distributed in 13,000 communes or villages. The average population of a village is thus less than 200 inhabitants. This fact is not unimportant, because this great dispersion increases the "general expenses" of the nation, if one can use this term. It is obvious that instruction in schools, for example, is more costly when settlements are dispersed, whether the classes have an attendance lower than is normal or whether it is necessary to arrange for collecting the students. There is thus reason for encouraging regroupings as much as possible.